

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, This is the 90th year of service by the 660,671 members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States who represent the families of those men and women who have sacrificed for America by protecting our freedom; and,

Whereas, The organization connects hospitalized veterans and the men and women currently on active duty with their families through *Operation Uplink* by providing them with prepaid telephone cards; and,

Whereas, Year after year members volunteer more than two million hours in Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, and support cancer aid, research, and education by raising more than \$3 million; and,

Whereas, The Ladies Auxiliary promotes our American heritage by conducting an annual patriotic ceremony and providing financial assistance for the preservation and beautification of this country's most treasured symbol of freedom, the Statue of Liberty; and,

Whereas, Members ensure that future generations will preserve our American way of life by encouraging our youth to volunteer in their communities and teaching them about patriotism, the responsibilities of citizenship, and the sacrifices our veterans have made; and,

Whereas, The organization provides awards and scholarships to students based on their expressions of patriotism through art, speech, and volunteerism; and,

Whereas, Evelyn McCune, National President 2003-2004, is rallying Ladies Auxiliary members behind her theme, *Kindness, Love and Peace*; and,

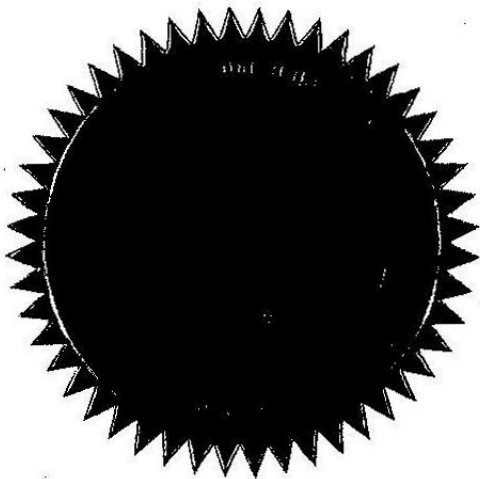
Whereas, On March 3, 2004, Evelyn McCune will make an official visit to Sioux Falls, South Dakota:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 3, 2004, as

LADIES AUXILIARY VFW DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this First Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.



M. Michael Rounds
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State